

REMARKS

The objection to the drawings is not understood. The drawings do show patterning and etching. For example, if you compare Figure 5 to Figure 1 and review the specification at page 9, lines 4-9, it is clear that the patterning and etching is shown. Namely, the structure shown in Figure 5 is patterned and etched to form the structure of Figure 1 as described in the specification.

Claim 1, for example, calls for forming a heater in a pore by filling the pore with conductive material and then removing the upper portion of the conductive material. Further, the claim calls for filling the upper portion with a phase change material. The Chiang reference does not teach filling the upper portion with the phase change material or forming a heater and removing the upper portion of the conductive material forming the heater.

While the office action postulates a reason why Chiang could be modified in view of Harshfield to remove the upper portion of the conductive material, to do so would make no sense. Specifically, referring to Figure 7 of Chiang, the heater is already so small that it would make no sense to remove the upper portion of the heater. Doing so would just decrease the effectiveness of the heater and would have no beneficial effect.


Therefore, it cannot be seen that there is any legitimate rationale to modify Chiang with Harshfield in the manner claimed. Moreover, there is no rationale to completely fill the upper portion with the phase change material because Chiang shows the situation where the upper portion is not filled with a phase change material. As a result, the upper electrode 20 extends down into the pore.

This situation in Chiang creates the problem which the present application is trying to cure. Namely, the idea is to space the upper electrode 20 out of the pore using the T-shaped phase change material. No such structure is taught in any of the cited references or their combination.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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